

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 DHA-02 INRE-00 USIE-00
SSO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 CU-04 AID-05 ORM-02
NSCE-00 SCSE-00 SCA-01 /089 W
-----032122Z 039278 /75-61

R 031155Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9407

INFO AMCONSUL, CAPETOWN 537

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USUN 394

UNCLAS GABORONE 0315

CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGSPFOR SREF, BC, RH

SUBJECT REPORTED INFLUX OF STUDENTS FROM RHODESIA

REF GABORONE 297 (NOTAL)

1. THE FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF GOB STATEMENT IN FEB. 3 DAILY NEWS
DENYING RHODESIAN ALLEGATIONS THAT THE 384 STUDENTS WHO FLED
TO BOTSWANA HAD BEEN ABDUCTED.

QTE THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT SAID YESTERDAY THAT THE MAJORITY
OF THE 384 RHODESIAN STUDENTS FROM MANAMA SCHOOL WERE MOVED
FROM KOBOJANGO TO BOBONONG ON TUESDAY. THE REST WERE TAKEN
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THERE YESTERDAY. FROM THERE THEY WOULD BE MOVED TO SELEBI-
PIKWE AND FRANCISTOWN DEPENDING ON WHERE ACCOMMODATION CAN BE
FOUND FOR THEM.

MR C TIBONE ADMINISTRATIVE SECRTRY IN THE OFFICE OF THE
PRESIDENT AND THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF POLICE, MR MERAFHE
HAD INTERVIEWED A LARGE NUMBER OF THE STUDENTS SELECTED AT

RANDOM FROM THE GROUP. NOT ONE OF THE STUDENTS SUPPORTED THE ALLEGATIONS OF THE SMITH REGIME THAT THEY HAD BEEN ABDUCTED BY ARMED FREEDOM FIGHTERS,. THEY SAID THAT THEY HAD UNANIMOUSLY DECIDED TO LEAVE RHODESIA BECAUSE OF THE HARASSMENT THEY HAD SUFFERED AT THE HANDS OF SMITH'S SECURITY FORCES.

THE PERMANENT SECRETARY TO THE PRESIDENT SAID THAT IF THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS ACCEPTED THE REQUEST BY MR. P.K. VAN DER BYL, THE FOREIGN MINISTER IN MR SMITH'S CABINET TO INVESTIGATE THE ALLEGED ABDUCTION OF THE CHILDREN, REPRESENTATIVES OF THAT ORGANISATION WOULD BE WELCOMED TO VISIT BOTSWANA AND TO INTERVIEW THE RHODESIAN STUDENTS.

HE SAID THAT HE HOPED THAT MR VAN DER BYL WOULD ALSO PERMIT RED CROSS REPRESENTATIVES TO INTERVIEW THE FOUR BOTSWANA WHO HAD BEEN ABDUCTED FROM BOTSWANA BY HIS SECURITY FORCES AND WERE INCARCERATED IN A PRISON IN RHODESIA." END QUOTE.

2. EMBASSY REPORTING FURTHER BY SEPTEL.
NORLAND

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 03-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770186/aaaacwwa.tel
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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TAGS: PFOR, SREF, BC, RH
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